

**MINUTES**  
**INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

October 1, 2008

Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
151 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:10 a.m. Board members Dr. Suellen Reed, Vicki Snyder, Dr. Edward Eiler, David Shane, James Edwards, Daniel Elsener, Jo Blacketer, Todd Huston, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Steve Gabet, and Mike Pettibone were present.

**I. Call to Order**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Edwards moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Reed discussed the following:

- Teacher of the Year, Tania Harman.
- Milken Family Foundation Festival.
- School visits to Blackford County, Jay County, Warrick County, and Union City.

- Bi-Centennial Committee Kick-Off in Evansville for Lincoln Bi-Centennial.
- Celebration of Constitution Day on September 17.
- Taping of an Early Literacy spot at WFYI.
- Attended IASBO and ISBA fall conference.

**IV. Member Comments and Reports from Board Member Representatives to Other Groups**

Mr. Pettibone said Dr. Reed was recognized at the ISBA and IAPSS meeting for her dedication and passion for children in the state of Indiana.

**V. Committee Reports**

- A. Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator reported on Strategic Planning and said the accreditation changes have been very well received. The Board now needs to move forward and make rule changes.

The Twenty First Century Skills Partnership application will go in this week and by November the Department of Education (DOE) should have a template ready for the One Plan.

Mr. Zaring discussed the teacher quality survey provided to Board members and said only three people have responded. The survey will be sent to Board members again as a reminder to those who have not sent back their comments.

Mr. Zaring said school corporation superintendents and Board members received a copy of the "At-Risk Tool" DOE is using to help school corporations identify students who are potentially at-risk of not graduating on time. This has received a lot of attention, including national recognition.

- B. Mr. Zaring reported on the Regulatory Review Committee and said the next step is to proceed with identifying rule and statute changes that are needed to implement a revised accreditation process.

The Regulatory Review Committee will meet later in October.

**VI. Discussion**

- A. Mr. Zaring gave an update on data and said the DOE has completed nine out of 10 data elements that were recommended by the National Data Quality Campaign. The DOE school personnel number system, which links teachers and students, will be implemented soon, and the department then will have met all 10 data requirements

Wesley Bruce, Assistant Superintendent, discussed accountability and assessment. Mr. Bruce said the weekend prior to the beginning of ISTEP+ testing (September 15-26), several schools were affected by severe weather problems such as power outages and flooding, and some schools closed for several days during the testing window. Mr. Bruce said affected schools were informed that they should reschedule their local testing period to later dates within the state's two-week testing window. This decision was solely at the discretion of local school corporations, so prior approval from the DOE was not required. Any adjustments to the Graduation Qualifying Examination (GQE) administration had to be approved by the DOE.

Mr. Bruce said some students may not have had the opportunity to take all parts of the test. The DOE will be very lenient, for those schools affected by attendance issues, regarding appeals for participation. Those schools that had sophomores affected will be asked to document which sophomores did not get a chance to take the GQE, and the state will pay for their opportunity to take the GQE in March.

Mr. Bruce said, other than the storm damage issues at some school corporations, ISTEP+ testing went very well and the pressure is now on the vendors.

Mr. Bruce discussed the first National Technical Advisory Committee meeting he attended on September 16. The meeting focused on index systems, index models, and growth models. Mr. Bruce said this committee was set up as only an advisory group to state Department of Educations and the US Secretary of Education.

Mr. Bruce said the expert panel met on September 23, to advise the DOE on our assessment transitions. Panel members consist of the following:

- Tom Fisher, Florida Department of Education.
- Susan Philips, expert on legal issues of assessments.

- Bill Marens, Michigan State University.
- Scott Marion, Center for Innovation and Assessment.

Mr. Bruce said the DOE has applied to Learning Point Associates for an IES grant. If awarded, the grant will allow the department to do a full blown research study on Indiana's diagnostic tools.

Phyllis Usher, Assistant Superintendent; Judy Jenkins, High School Redesign Coordinator; and Dr. Ilene Block, School Improvement Specialist; discussed support to probationary schools.

Ms. Jenkins discussed with the Board the rubrics and models that the expert team would use in their technical assistance to the probationary schools.

Board members asked that a model and rubric be developed around the critical factors and brought to the November meeting for consideration.

Joel Hand, Director of Legislative and Governmental Relations, gave an update on legislative study committee meetings.

Mr. Hand said the following study committees have met:

- Education matters.
- Adult education.
- Illegal immigration.
- Student learners permits and drivers license.

Mr. Hand discussed the Indiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, established under HEA 1162, which is scheduled to meet three to six times a year. The council is charged to provide advice on ten topics. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20.

Board members discussed legislative issues concerning dual credit, honors diplomas, and P.L.221

## **VII. Public Comments**

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VIII, A]

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School renewal from Hasten Hebrew Academy, Indianapolis. [Agenda item X, C]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition from God's Bright Treasures Academy, Lawrenceburg. [Agenda item X, D]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Professional Development Grants for the 2008-2009 school year. [Agenda item X, I]

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Dr. Eiler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. Action**

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of the 2008 Social Studies textbook adoption.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Dr. Eiler seconded the motion. The motion failed with five ayes and six noes, Mr. Shane, Mr. Huston, Mrs. Blacketor, Mr. Elsener, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Gabet.

Mr. Elsener made a motion for approval, to release the list based on the rubrics being followed, but noting serious concerns about the depth and richness of the books and stating a need to follow-up with more study and communication about reviewing the process, the rubrics, and engaging textbook companies. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion.

Mr. Shane asked to amend the motion to add that this issue will be discussed at the November meeting, since it affects teachers as they are thinking about appropriate materials. The amendment was accepted.

The motion passed unanimously. (See attached statement.)

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of continued use recommendations for the previously adopted Social Studies textbooks.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval stating that the previous motion also applies to this matter. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously,

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of readoption of rules scheduled to expire January 2009.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold this matter over to the

November meeting.

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a school construction proposal from the Cannelton City Schools, an unreorganized school corporation.

Marion Chapman, Superintendent, Cannelton City Schools, and Karl Sturbaum, Bose McKinney and Evans, spoke on behalf of Cannelton City Schools.

Debbie Hineline, Director of K-12 Financial Management, spoke on behalf of the Department of Education.

Dr. Eiler made a motion to approve only the lease rental agreement. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion failed with five ayes and five noes, Mrs. Blacketor, Mr. Shane, Mr. Gabet, Dr. Reed, and Mr. Huston. Mr. Elsener was not present for this vote.

Mr. Shane made a motion to table this matter until the November meeting. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of advances from the Common School Fund for construction, technology, and Charter School first semester operational costs.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of criteria for participating in a modified assessment based on modified achievement standards.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mr. Huston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Board Operations**

Mrs. Blacketor discussed her support of Lowell Johnson, Candidate for the National Association of State Boards of Education 2009 President-Elect.

Mrs. Blacketor also discussed an education conference sponsored by the US Army that she recently attended and said it was wonderful.

-----

Mr. Huston moved for adjournment. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

---

---



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_